

6 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Views of AMAIL-3 on Current Cuban Exile Situation

1. The most logical action for AMCIAR and the one most urgently needed is the selection of a single chairman to replace the rule-by-committee that is now employed by AMCIAR.
2. The most obvious choice for chairman is AMER-1.
3. Because of the bitter personal differences between AMER-1 and AMER-2, the selection of AMER-1 as chairman could very well bring about the resignation of AMER-2 from AMCIAR. This would not in the least weaken AMCIAR and might in fact strengthen it.
4. The views expressed above are those of AMAIL-3, who made a special trip to the Headquarters area on 1 September to meet Paul J. FREED and discuss these matters with him. The meeting lasted from 1630 until 1930 hours in a local hotel room.
5. As AMAIL-3 sees it, the selection of a single chairman would automatically solve several of the current problems of AMCIAR. For example, it would speed the decision-making process. It would force AMER-1 to work for the common good rather than his own partisan political interests. It would present the uncommitted Cuban exiles with a strong personality around whom they could rally in the traditional Latin pattern.
6. AMAIL-3 paints quite an encouraging picture regarding the Miami office of AMASAP, but he says the good talent assigned by the majority of AMCIAR to head up the Miami office is being frustrated by the unilateral actions of AMER-1, who refuses to be bound by decisions which AMCIAR took in his absence. See good examples are the followings:
 - a. AMCIAR named AMER-1 chose ROBERTO VERDE (fmr) as head of the Communications Committee. ROBERTO VERDE is a graduate of MIT and an instructor there. He was granted leave without pay by MIT to accept the AMASAP post. AMAIL-3 has the highest respect for him. However, when AMER-1 returned to Miami he immediately insisted on putting one of his men, CAPU (fmr), in as head of the Communications Committee. CAPU was formerly a part of the enxer organization of the 26 of July movement. He operated in Havana. He is probably well-qualified for the job but he is completely loyal to AMER-1 and was not the choice of AMCIAR for the chairmanship.
 - b. Colonel WALTER BLON is an outstanding figure and the best possible choice to head up the military committee. Although he was only issued a cautious verbal invitation to leave Cuba and join AMASAP by AMCIAR at the outset, his response was immediate acceptance, to the surprise of AMCIAR. Since his arrival in Miami he has impressed

*(Augustin Caye)
J. Am...
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ASMAIL-3 and others as a strong leader, honest, dedicated and professionally competent. Here again, however, ASMAIL-3 wishes to replace MARTIN with Colonel Oscar DIAZ. A struggle for power is under way between MARTIN Escobedo and DIAZ, much to the detriment of ASMAIL's military effort.

7. At the instructions of the ASMAIL members in Mexico, ASMAIL-3 was to arrive in Miami on 11 August to put ASMAIL-1 in his place. ASMAIL-3 is hopeful that this meeting will have the desired effect. He has promised to provide a private report on the outcome to MASON.

8. Among the other five members of ASMAIL there is good faith. They do not see eye to eye in all matters, but they are willing in the interest of unity to resolve their differences in a civilized manner.

9. In reply to a query concerning Major Paul CHIRAS, ASMAIL-3 gave an unfavorable description. He called CHIRAS a person of little moral fiber who has been crying, without success, to form a competing organization headed by himself, ASMAIL-1 and ASMAIL-2.

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Paul J. MASON

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